



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maine*

100 Middle Street
6th Floor, East Tower
Portland, ME 04101

(207) 780-3257
TTY (207) 780-3060
Fax (207) 780-3304
www.usdoj.gov/usao/me

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Contact: Joel B. Casey
Assistant United States Attorney
Tel: (207) 945-0373

Former Hampden Resident Pleads Guilty to Federal Firearms Charges

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Sayer Tamiso**, 19, formerly of Hampden, Maine, pled guilty on June 20, 2007 in U.S. District Court in Bangor to Theft of Firearms From a Federal Firearms Licensee.

Tamiso faces a possible sentence of up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000, or both, on this Class C Felony.

Court records reveal that on April 23, 2007, Tamiso and another individual stole 15 firearms (8 rifles and 7 pistols) from the Maine Military Supply, a federal firearms licensee, located at 735 Wilson Street in Brewer, Maine. The store's video surveillance system recorded the arrival of a Jeep Cherokee, later identified as being owned by Tamiso, backing up to the front door of the store, and the breaking of the front door glass as a landscaping stone was thrown through the door. Also caught on the surveillance tape were Tamiso and the other individual entering the store.

With a metal pipe, Tamiso struck the display case several times where the handguns were displayed, until the case broke. He removed the handguns and placed them in a backpack style bag. At the same time, the other individual vaulted the store counter to the area where assault rifles and similar type assault weapons were stored, and removed several assault rifles and placed them in a duffel bag. In less than 2 minutes from the time they pulled up to the store, Tamiso and the other individual left the store carrying the bags containing the firearms, got into the Jeep Cherokee and drove away.

This burglary involved gun violence at a local business engaged in interstate commerce, the reduction of which is a significant federal enforcement priority of Maine's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Eastern Maine Violent Crime Task Force, the Brewer Police Department, the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office, the Bangor Police Department, the Maine State Police and the Vermont State Police.

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